



## **FRIENDS OF PRIME HOOK, NWR**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **PRIME HOOK NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINNER NAMED**

**PRIME HOOK** – The winner of the "People's Choice Award" in the 2012 Prime Hook Nature Photography Contest is Peggy Douglas of Rehoboth Beach.

Her winning photograph garnered the most votes from those viewing the hundreds of entries in the ninth annual contest. Everyone who viewed the exhibit sponsored by the Friends of Prime Hook had the chance to vote for their favorite photograph.

Her photograph is entitled "Back to the Sea" and features a horseshoe crab on the beach at sunrise as it slowly returns to Delaware Bay after spawning. Douglas shot her photo at Broadkill Beach. The photo also won second place in the contest's Native Wildlife Non-Bird category. "I'm still on Cloud Nine," she said.

Douglas placed her camera on the sand behind the crab to capture a close up as it returned to Delaware Bay after spawning. The low camera angle was one of the most attractive and unusual elements of the photograph for those viewing the exhibit. The winning photo clearly shows the trail in the sand left by the ancient creature, often called a "living fossil, as it returns to the water.

The exhibit concluded this past December after being on display for two months at Prime Hook. The exhibit began with an opening reception and awards ceremony in October.

The judges for the contest - Marc Clery, David Koster and Kevin Fleming - had the difficult task of picking winners in the Native Wildlife (bird and non-bird), Delmarva Scenery, Native Plants and Flowers and Beauty of Prime Hook categories. They also chose student winners in both junior and senior categories. The "Best In Show" winner was Ken Arni with a photo of two great blue herons fighting over a single fish.

Next year's contest will open again in October and it's not too soon to begin thinking about that perfect shot. The contest is open to all nature photographers, both students and adults. It attracts hundreds of entries and the Friends of Prime Hook hope to see you and your camera at next year's exhibit.

For more information about the photography contest, the Friends Group or Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, please call (302) 684-8419.

*The mission of the Friends of Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. is to support environmental, educational, and recreational activities and programs that increase the public understanding of the history, habitats and heritage of Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge and of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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